

THAILAND, PATTAYA / JOMTIEN FROM AUTUMN 2010 UNTIL SPRING 2011

The 4th of October we went to Thailand to stay there until about the 1st of April 2011. In advance we had got non-immigrant visa for half a year. It lasts for 3 months first and then it has to be renewed for 3 more months while we are in Thailand.

We went with Air Berlin from Gardermoen to Berlin Tegel.



Tegel airport is one of two airports in Berlin. It lies in the northern part, Reinickendorf. In 2003 the airport had a traffic of 11,1 million passengers.

The airport was built by french army engineers in 48 days during the Berlin blockade in 1948, for transportation of supplies to the sieged city. When the airport was new it had a runway of 2,4km, the longest in Europe. The airport was modernized in the 1970s, and started to replace Tempelhof airport as West-Berlin's most important airport. Tempelhof was surrounded by modern buildings and its runways were too short for modern jumbo jets.

It is planned to shut down the airport in connection with the merge of all the airports into Berlin-Brandenburg International Airport.



The plane we travelled with.
It took about 11 hours from Berlin to Bangkok.

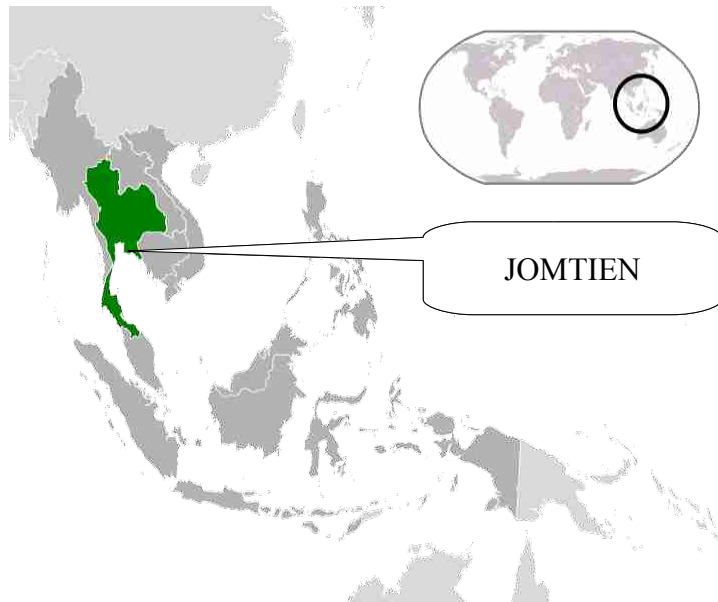


Here we have arrived in Bangkok and are going to get the luggage.



Suvarnabhumi Airport, also known as (New) Bangkok International Airport, is the main airport in Bangkok. After many delays the airport was opened for traffic the 28th of September 2006.

Suvarnabhumi lies about 25 km east of Bangkok. The name *Suvarnabhumi* was chosen by King Bhumibol Adulyadej and is referring to «the ancient kingdom» that is believed to have been somewhere in south east Asia. The control tower at the airport is the highest in the world (132.2 m). In addition the terminal building is the next biggest airport terminal (563,000 m²), only beaten by Hong Kong International Airport (570,000 m²), but bigger than the South Korean Incheon International Airport (496,000 m²). Suvarnabhumi is one of the busiest airports in Asia.



Thai is the name of the largest ethnic group of people in Thailand, and the name of the country is probably to be interpreted as «the land of the Thai people».

The official name was Siam until 1939, and between 1945 and 1949.

The Thai people has lived for immemorial times in southern parts of China, from where they have diverged south and east to Vietnam, Laos, Thailand, the Shan states in Burma and Assam. This migration, which found place through year hundreds, increased when the Mongols invaded China during the 1200s.

Around 1250 the first Thai dominated kingdoms appear in the northern Thailand in the towns Chiang Saen, Chiangmai and Sukhothai. Sukhothai is considered to be the first capital of Thailand.



Flagg



Riksvåpen

There were wars both against the Khmer states and against Burma.

The first Europeans – the Portuguese – arrived in Thailand in the beginning of the 1500s.

It is interesting to notice that Thailand has never been a European colony.

Thailand is a monarchy and the King, Bhumibol Adulyadej, is the king of Thailand who have reigned longest, and he is immensely popular among the Thai people.



We had ordered a car with driver to get us at the airport. He was ready and we arrived in New Nordic, where we should stay, after about one and a half hour.

Pattaya/Jomtien is the most visited place in Thailand next after Bangkok. Pattaya attracted tourists already in the 1950s, but the development of Pattaya as a resort was accelerated in the 1960s when American soldiers found their way here when they were on leave during the Vietnam war. It has developed to be a very popular destination for western tourists.



Thai Airways International was established in 1960 as a joint venture between Thai Airways Company and SAS. After having helped to start the company, SAS was bought out in 1977 such that the company became 100 % owned by the Thai state. Both companies are still cooperating since they are both members of Star Alliance. The company's first flight was 11. May 1960. Thai started as «Thai International» and «Thai Airways Domestic». Later these two were merged as the present Thai Airways International.

When going back to Norway, after staying there for about half a year, we chose to go with Thai Airways, which went directly from Bangkok to Oslo.



At the airport in Bangkok



Decorations in the corridors.



The restaurant where we were eating.



Waiting for the food.



Rolling pavements exist at most airports.



More decorations.